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2 November 1960

"YESTERDAY AND TODAY": A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF HEALTH PROTECTION IN STALINABAD

By P. Ya. Zhukov

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"YESTERDAY AND TODAY": A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF HEALTH PROTECTION IN STALINABAD

[Following is the translation of an article by P. Ya. Zhukov entitled "Vchera i Sevodnya: Neskol'ko Slovo o Razvitii Zdravookhraneniya Stalinabada", (English version above) in Zdravookhraneniye Tadzhikistana (Tadzhikistan Health), Vol. VII, No. 3, Stalinabad, May/June 1960, pages 20-21.]

The Tadzhikskaya ASSR was established on 14 October 1924, and by December of that year a People's Commissariat of Health had already been formed. At this time, there were three "kishlaks" in the territory of the new Stalinabad: in the north of "kishlak" of Sary-Asiya, in the south that of Shakhmansur, and between them that of Dyushambe, which became the capital of the Tadzhikskaya ASSR. In 1925, there was a total of 283 persons in the three "kishlaks".

At the beginning of 1925, the first medical institutions were opened in Dyushambe, and the first physicians arrived in the capital. One of these was physician L. F. Paradoksov (later professor, honored worker in science, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences Tadzhikskaya ASSR). He described his arrival in Dyushambe as follows:

"The present center of the Republic, Stalinabad, arose out of a kishlak which had been destroyed in the Civil War and abandoned by its inhabitants. The first impression of the Dyushambe of that time was unfavorable.

On 13 February 1925, we arrived in Termez by airplane. In Termez we spent the night. In the morning the cabin was loaded with two rifles and 250 cartridges "in case it is necessary to defend oneself in the event of forced landing." After an hour and 20 minutes of flight we landed in Dyushambe. On the previous evening it had snowed, due to which the airplane nearly turned over upon landing. The airdrome was in the area where the Press Building now stands. We descended from the plane; the snow was melting and mud and slush were forming. In the distance, we saw semi-des-

troyed nomads' tents. Communication was by horseback, with two to a horse. Thus we reached the People's Commissariat of Health.

In the three rooms of an adobe nomad's hut we found the People's Commissariat of Health, the apothecary, and a group of six persons. The hut was of recent construction, and the walls were newly smeared with mud, steam was rising from the walls of the fire chamber of the iron stove, and after several days, wheat began to grow from the walls of the hut.

European buildings were also in evidence in Dyushambé at that time. These consisted of six small homes in which, at the present time (this was in 1936 - P. Zh.), are situated several departments of the Republic hospital, along with a building which was recently occupied by the Post Office. The houses were occupied by the staff, along with the Inspection Committee and a number of institutions. A room was also set off for the People's Commissariat of Health, but, at my insistence, these quarters were converted to an out-patient department. Such was the state of affairs in the center of the Republic.

On 28 February 1925, in the special Soviet out-patient department, which was the first in existence in Eastern Bukhara, the reception of patients with eye diseases was initiated. Soon we received Dr. Lastochkin, from the military department, and reception of patients with surgical diseases was begun. In May, after obtaining two more rooms, we opened an ophthalmic surgery out-patient department with 12 beds in it and an operating room. In June, the bed reserve, because of the constant demand for it, was increased to 50, with 38 beds having to be placed in the barracks, and only the 12 beds for surgical patients remained in the original building. The hospital now had several departments: the surgical division in the original building, and the therapy, infectious, gynecology, obstetrical and ophthalmology divisions in the barracks.

In the autumn, due to the impossibility of keeping patients in the barracks, they were transferred to the building previously occupied by the post office. The building had frame walls and a metal roof, but there was neither floor nor ceiling. Later, in December, the hospital received part of the present buildings released by the Inspection Committee and the Military Department.

Hence, the Republic Hospital originated in the ophthalmologic surgery out-patient department with 12 beds, which opened in the month of May 1925."

That is how it was...

If we look now on Stalinabad from the surrounding hills, we see a beautifully planned new city with a population of over 220,000 persons. The avenues and homes are surrounded by trees.

Let us walk along the principal boulevard of the city - the Prospect imeni V. I. Lenin. The entire medical center has grown up along this street. The Medical Institute imeni Abuali inbi Sino, the medical school, the Republic Clinic, and the Second Pediatric City Hospital with its polyclinic divisions.

In the Medical Institute are enrolled more than two thousand students. Within the walls of the school future dentists, obstetricians, pharmacists, midwives, and nurses have studied. The Republic Hospital of 360 beds is located in specially constructed buildings. The hospital includes surgical, neurosurgical, therapeutic, neurological, X-ray, and physiotherapeutic divisions. The Republic Hospital is the organizational and methodological center for the Republic. This is in the medical center.

In other regions of the city are nine other city hospitals, two large maternity homes, and seven dispensaries. Altogether, the institutions of the city comprise 2320 beds.

Let us remind ourselves of the 12 beds available in May 1925, and we shall obtain a clear notion of the remarkable attainments in the people's health program in Tadzhikistan.

The protection and restoration of the health of the people of the capital of the Tadzhikskaya ASSR is now the responsibility of more than 1000 physicians and more than 2,000 middle medical workers.

The workers of the industrial plants are under the observation of 15 medical and 25 obstetrical stations. In the city there are 18 X-ray and 12 physiotherapy departments, 12 clinical diagnostic units, and seven electrocardiographic units. Republic and city sanitation and epidemiological stations are in operation. Moreover, there are two large

scientific research institutions in Stalinabad: the Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene, and the Institute of Regional Medicine.

35 years is a comparatively brief period of time, but within this period considerable growth has occurred in the medical service to the people of Stalinabad. This testifies to the unremitting efforts of the Party and government on behalf of the life of the people, and on what is of great importance to us - the health of the people.



In 1925, the first People's Commissariat of Health Tadjikskaya ASSR was housed here.

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